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Trash Complaint Answer Fails to Satisfy ACLU

The chairman of the National Capital Area Civil Liberties Union said yesterday that he is not satisfied with the District's answer to his complaint about trashsnooping here.

David Carliner, who charged Friday that the trash of a prominent attorney was being segregated from other collections and later examined, said a letter from Brig. Gen. Charles M. Duke, the city's Engineer Commissioner, did not dig deep enough.

Duke said in his letter to Carliner that "close examination of trash collected from individual premises" is authorized only to detect householders who combine trash and garbage in a single container or "occasionally to determine from typical households unit characteristics of refuse for statistical and design purposes related to incineration and disposal."

In an interview, the Commissioner said any other instance of trash segregation

was done "without the knowledge or assent of the director of the Department of Sanitary Engineering or the Board of Commissioners."

Carliner said his group was aware of the authorized reasons for trash separation, but noted that the complainant, whom he refuses to name, had never been notified of any trash violations.

He said he had reason to believe that "other investigative agencies" might have in-

stigated the snooping, and would elaborate on this in another letter to Duke. It is up to the District, he said, to find out what agency is involved.

Carliner also stated that his office has evidence that the practice was conducted with the knowledge of "supervisory personnel in the Sanitation Division." He said the ACLU is checking other complaints about trash collection that it has received since last week.